

MARVEL

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LGY#280

PARENTAL
ADVISORY

THE PUNISHER



AFTER RETIRED MARINE FRANK CASTLE'S WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE KILLED BY STRAY GUNFIRE DURING A SHOOT-OUT IN CENTRAL PARK, HE BEGAN A ONE-MAN VIGILANTE WAR ON CRIME. ARMED WITH A VAST ARSENAL AND GRIM DETERMINATION, HE BECAME...

THE PUNISHER



WAR WOUNDS

Frank Castle is back in New York City and is his own man once again after being used as a mind-controlled hit man. His return is a mystery, even to himself, but he is holding his old ally Microchip responsible for his part in Frank's manipulation.

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HE IS AT HOME,



AMONG THE
BROKEN...



...THE
FILTHY...



...THE DISEASED
AND ROTTING...



...THE
SCARRED...



...AND THE
PARANOID.





HEY.



HEY,
MAN.



YOU
SEE WHAT
I GOT?



THAT'S
WHAT I
GOT.



NOW
WHAT DO
YOU GOT?

EMPTY YOUR
POCKETS.





THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH HIM.

GRK!



KINGPIN
PLANTED A DEVICE
IN HIS BRAIN.



AND FRANK
HAD
IT CARVED OUT
LIKE A BULLET.

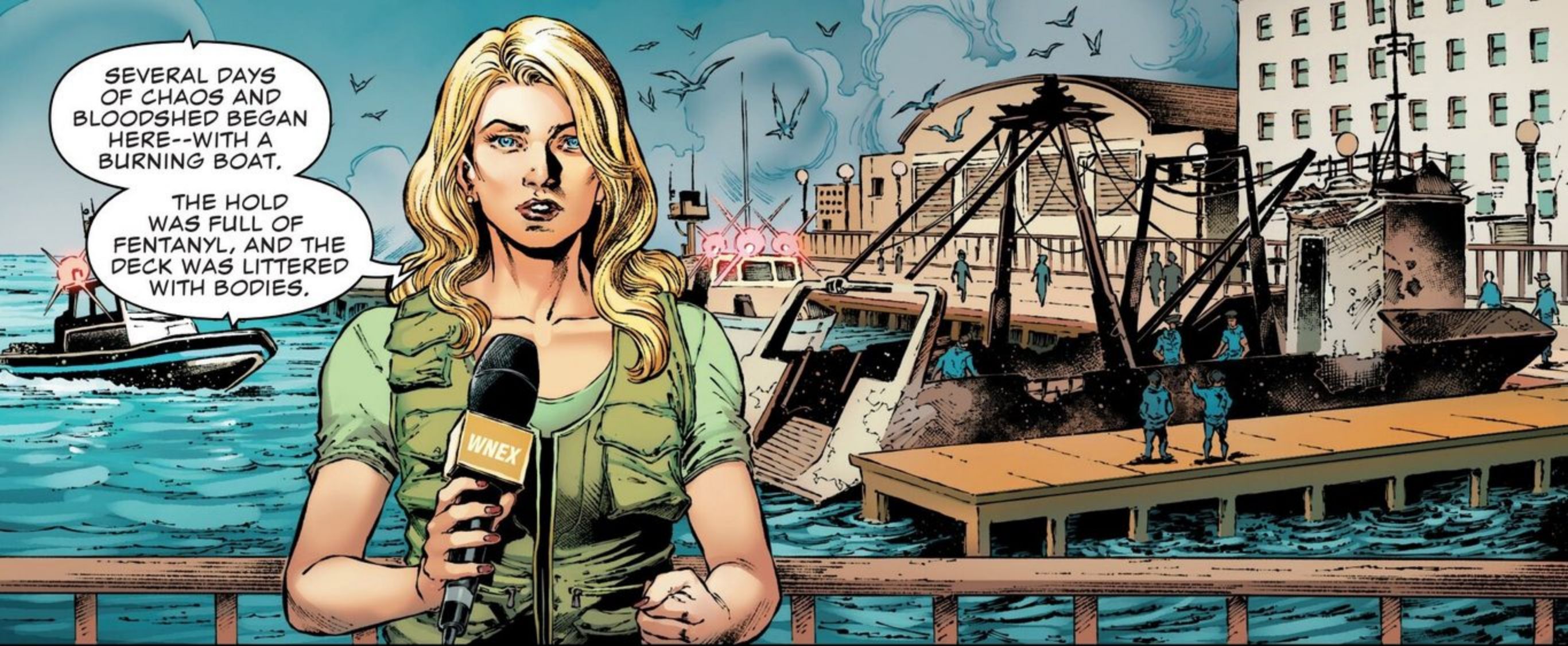


IF HE HAD A HEALING FACTOR,
IF HE HAD VIBRANIUM SKIN,
IF HE HAD THE ABILITY TO GO
BACK IN TIME OR MANIPULATE
MATTER ON AN ATOMIC LEVEL...

...HE WOULD
BE FINE.



BUT HE'S
JUST A MAN.



SEVERAL DAYS OF CHAOS AND BLOODSHED BEGAN HERE--WITH A BURNING BOAT.

THE HOLD WAS FULL OF FENTANYL, AND THE DECK WAS LITTERED WITH BODIES.



ACCORDING TO THE HARBOR POLICE, WHEN THEY APPROACHED THE VESSEL, THEY WERE FIRED UPON BY A MAN...

...A MAN WHO ESCAPED BY THROWING HIMSELF INTO THE ICY WATERS AND SWIMMING AWAY.



THIS INCIDENT WAS SOON FOLLOWED BY A HIGH-SPEED VEHICLE CHASE AND SHOOT-OUT AT THE BATTERY PARK TUNNEL.



A SCENE OF TORTURE AT A BROOKLYN RESIDENCE.

A FIVE-BOROUGH MANHUNT.*

*READ THE PUNISHER: RED BAND SERIES, YOU COWARDS! --DEMANDING DEVIN

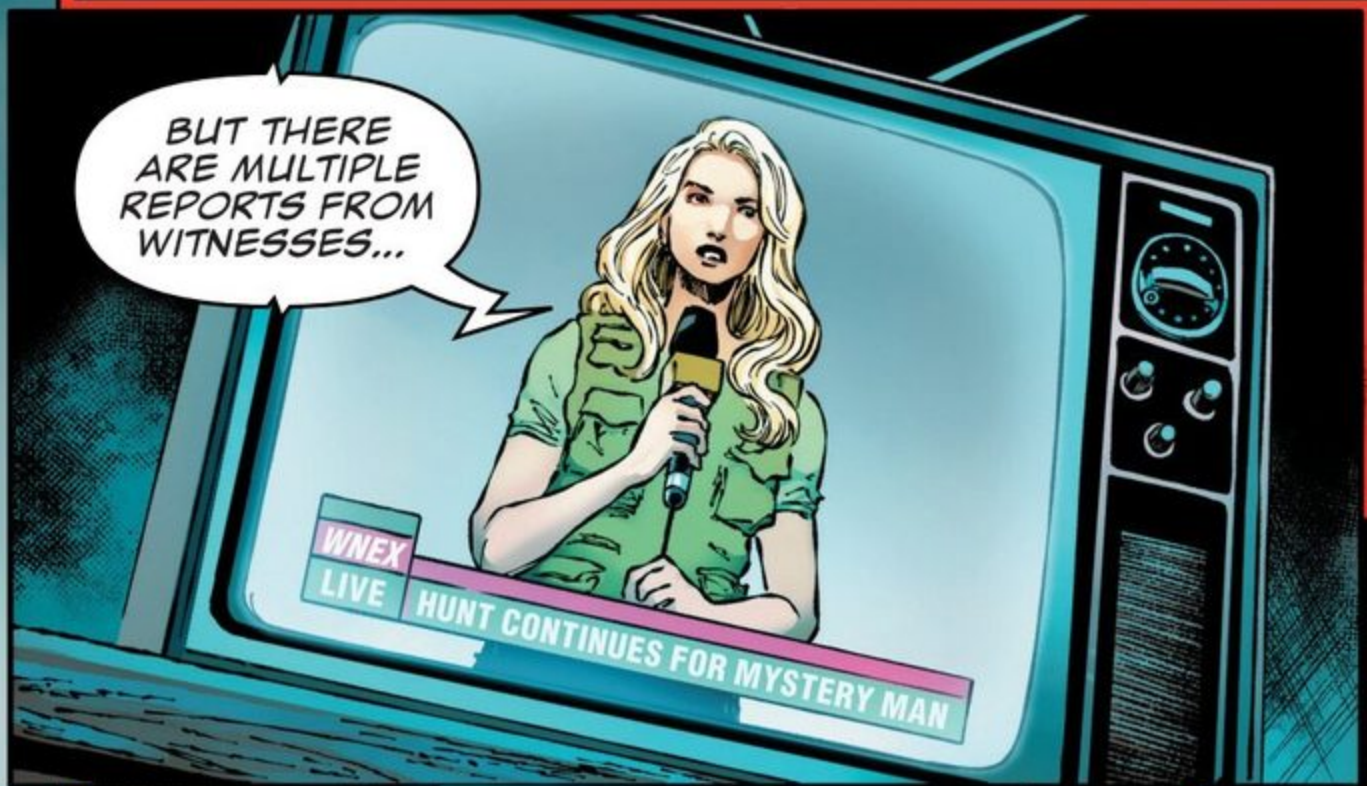


AND THE APPREHENSION OF A LOCAL CRIME BOSS, ALONZO LINCOLN-- ALSO KNOWN AS TOMBSTONE...

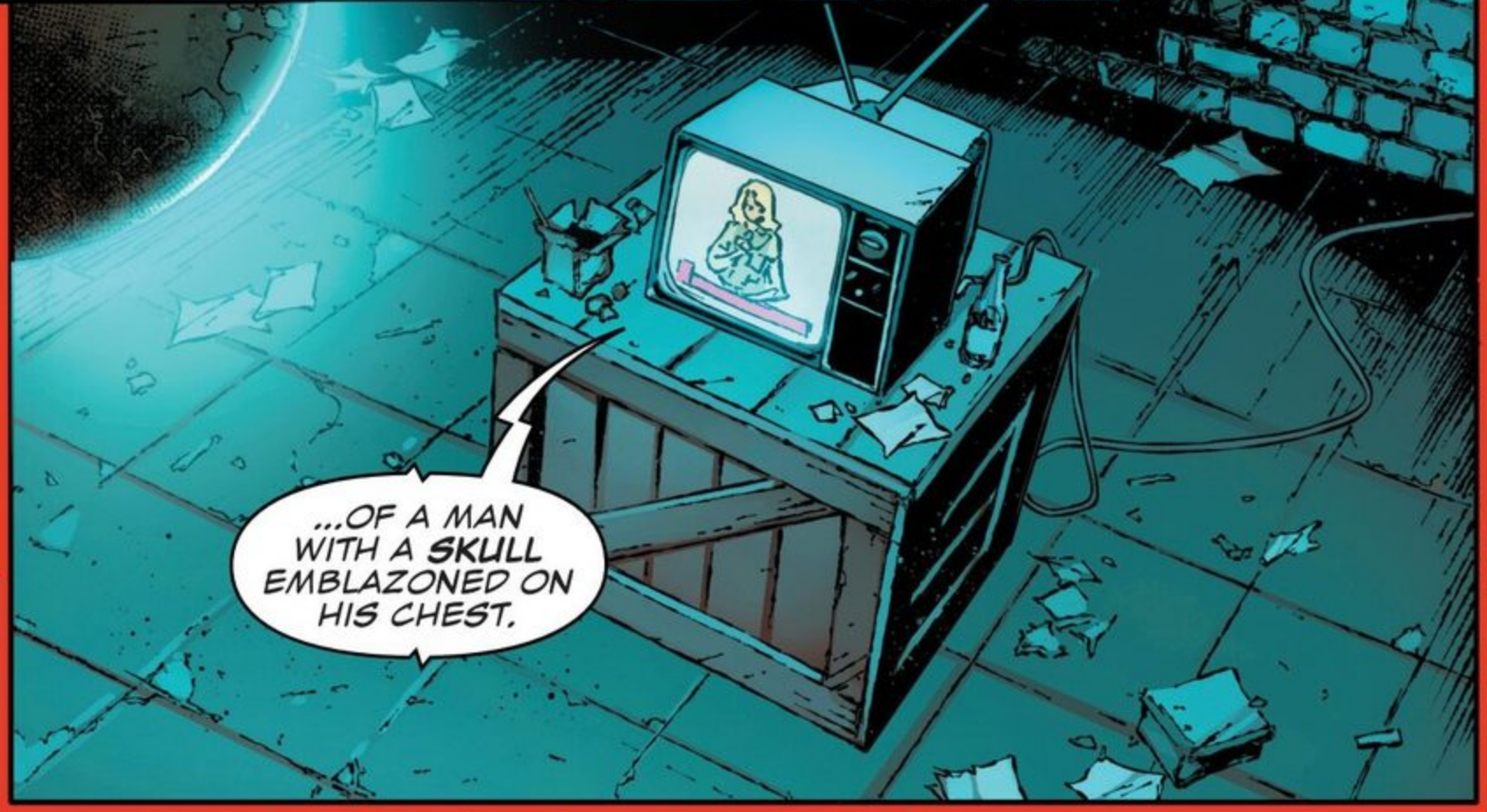
...WHO IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD AT RYKER'S AND AWAITING ARRAIGNMENT.

POLICE
AREN'T OFFERING
ANY COMMENT AT
THIS TIME.

BUT THERE
ARE MULTIPLE
REPORTS FROM
WITNESSES...



...OF A MAN
WITH A **SKULL**
EMBLAZONED ON
HIS CHEST.



WE'LL BE
FOLLOWING THIS
STORY CLOSELY, SO
TUNE IN FOR
UPDATES.

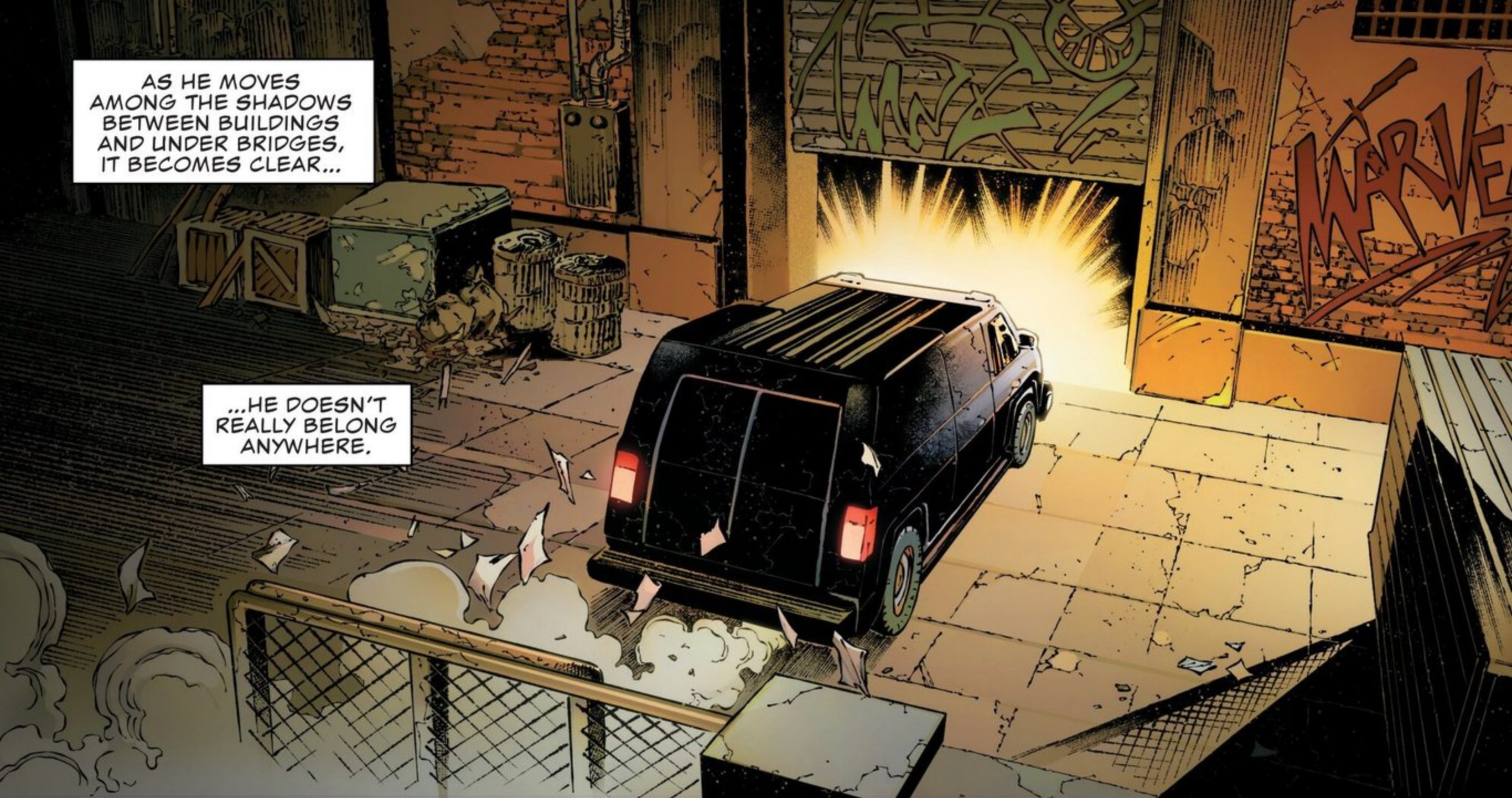


I'M
MADELINE
PHIPPS, WNEX
NEWS.

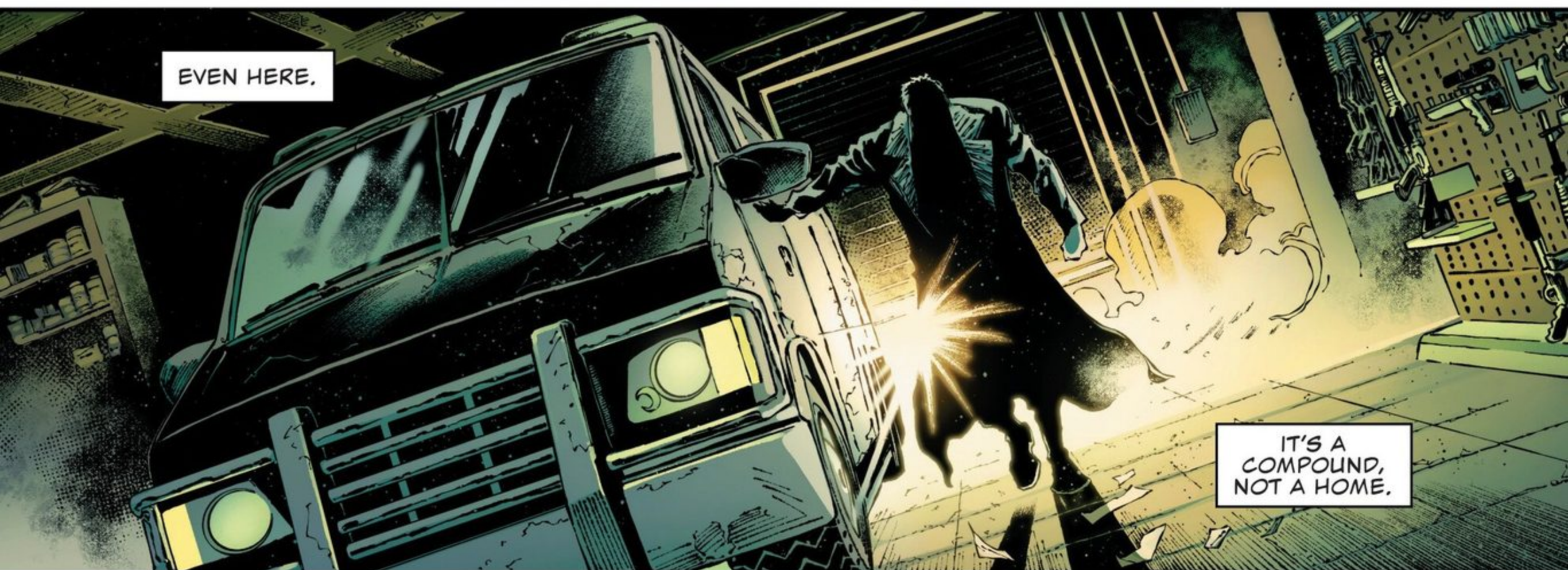


AS HE MOVES
AMONG THE SHADOWS
BETWEEN BUILDINGS
AND UNDER BRIDGES,
IT BECOMES CLEAR...

...HE DOESN'T
REALLY BELONG
ANYWHERE.



EVEN HERE.



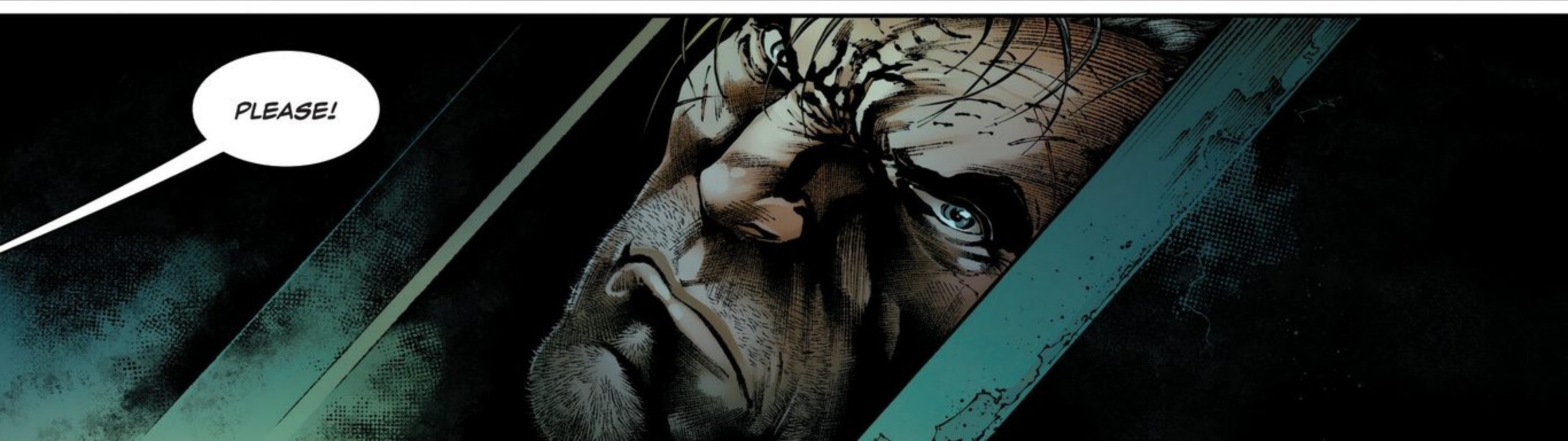
IT'S A
COMPOUND,
NOT A HOME.

THERE IS SOMEONE
WHO CAN HELP HIM
FIND HIS WAY.



BUT HELP IS NOT
SOMETHING HE
KNOWS HOW TO
ASK FOR.







HIS MIND
FEELS LIKE A
HOT BRUISE.

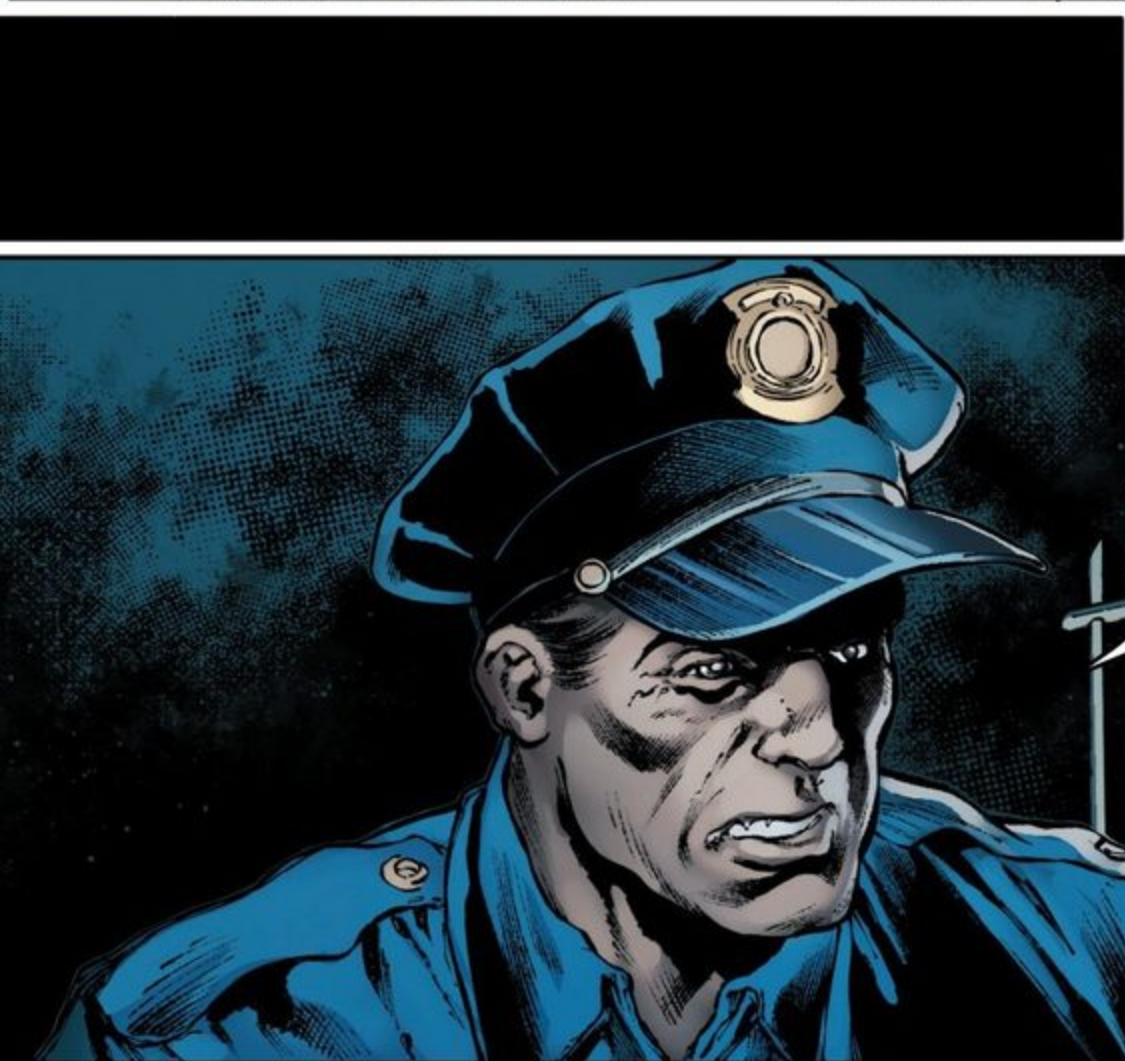
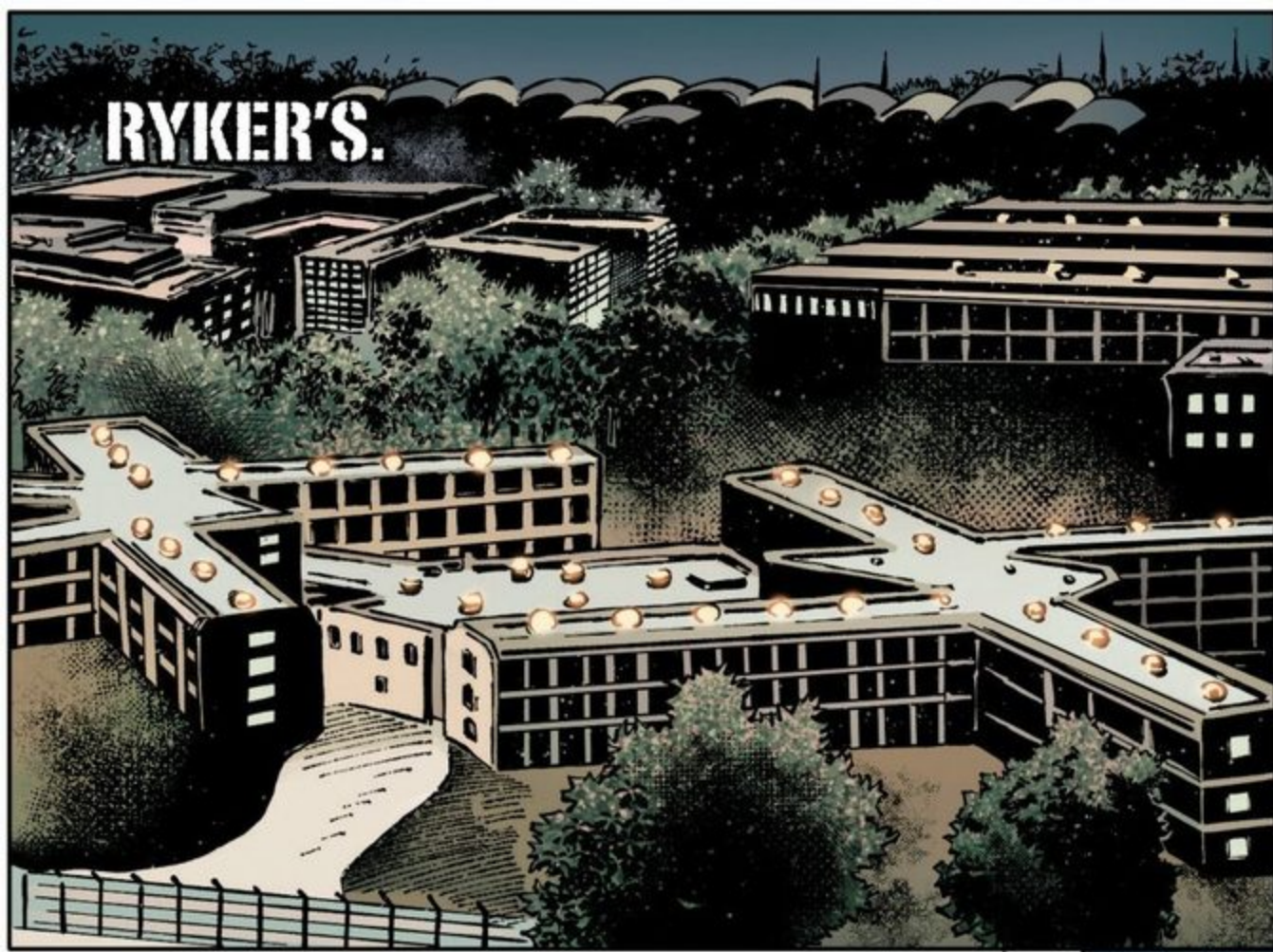


HE IS STILL PUTTING
TOGETHER THE PIECES
OF WHO HE IS.



HE IS LOST--
SOMEWHERE
BETWEEN STARTING
OVER AND
GOING BACK.





LET'S GO.

COME TOWARD THE BARS, TOMBSTONE.

HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK.

IT'S 2 A.M....

...AND I'M GUNSHOT.

DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU WHINE, COP KILLER.

YOU GOT A VERY IMPORTANT VISITOR.

SO MAN THE @#%& UP AND PUT ON THE BRACELETS.

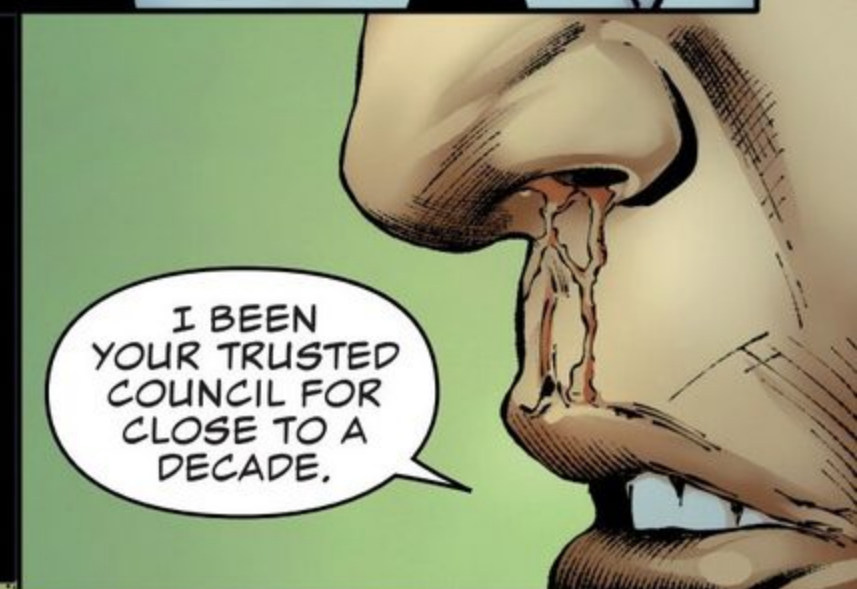




WHO ARE YOU?



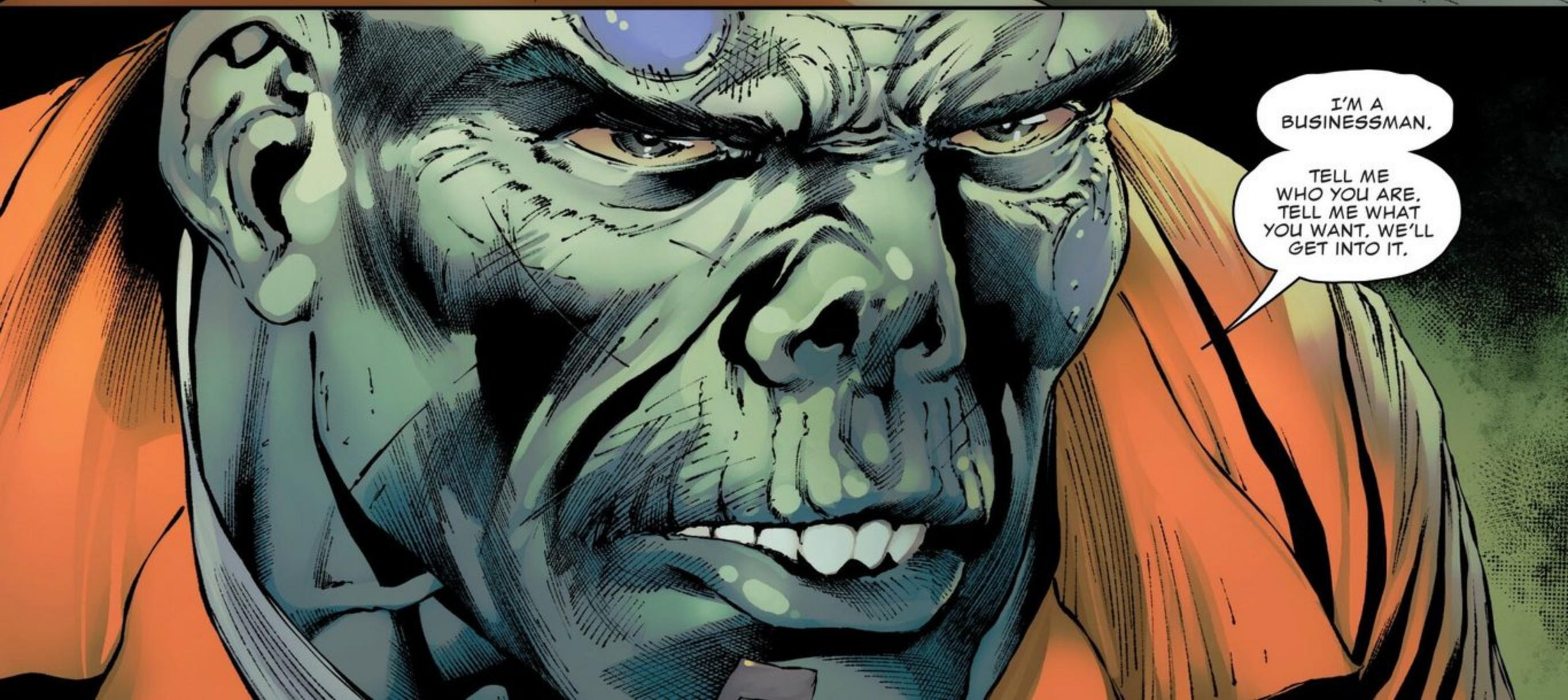
WHAT, YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME?



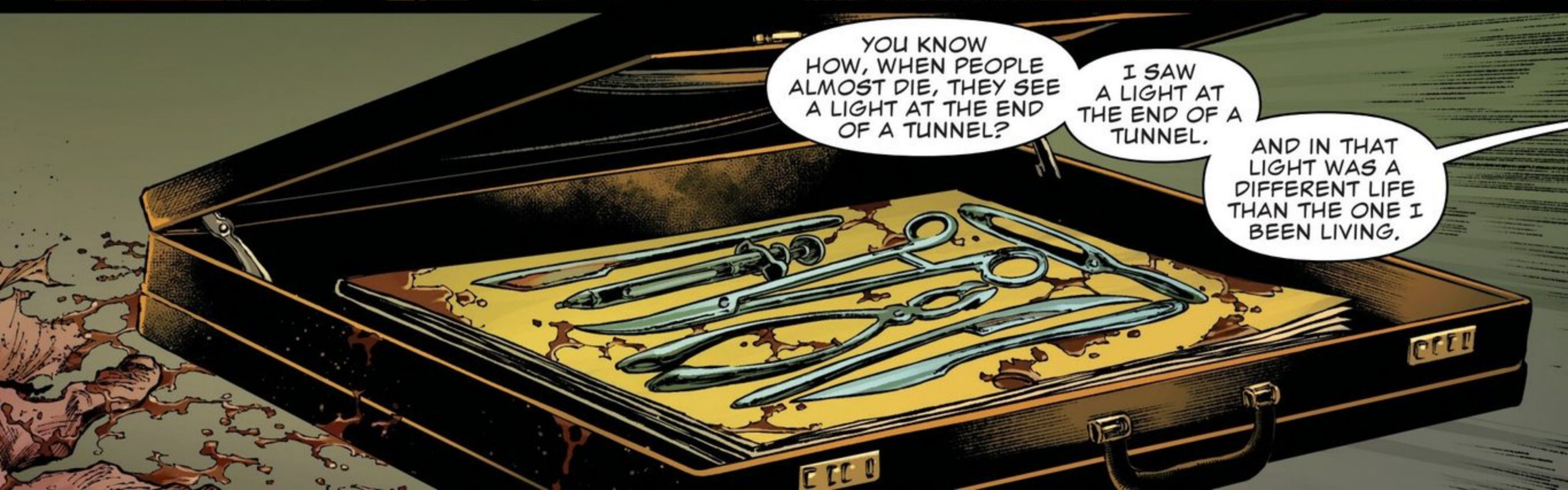
I BEEN YOUR TRUSTED COUNCIL FOR CLOSE TO A DECADE.

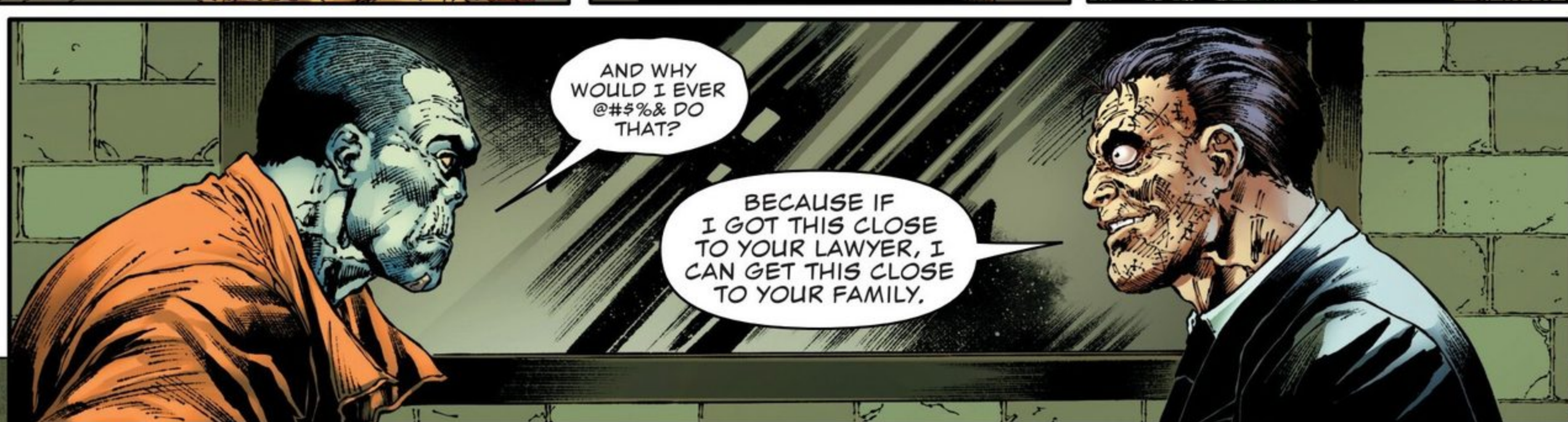


QUIT WITH THE @#\$% GAMES.



I'M A BUSINESSMAN.
TELL ME WHO YOU ARE, TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT, WE'LL GET INTO IT.







HE MOVES THROUGH
THE CITY WITHOUT A
CLEAR DIRECTION.

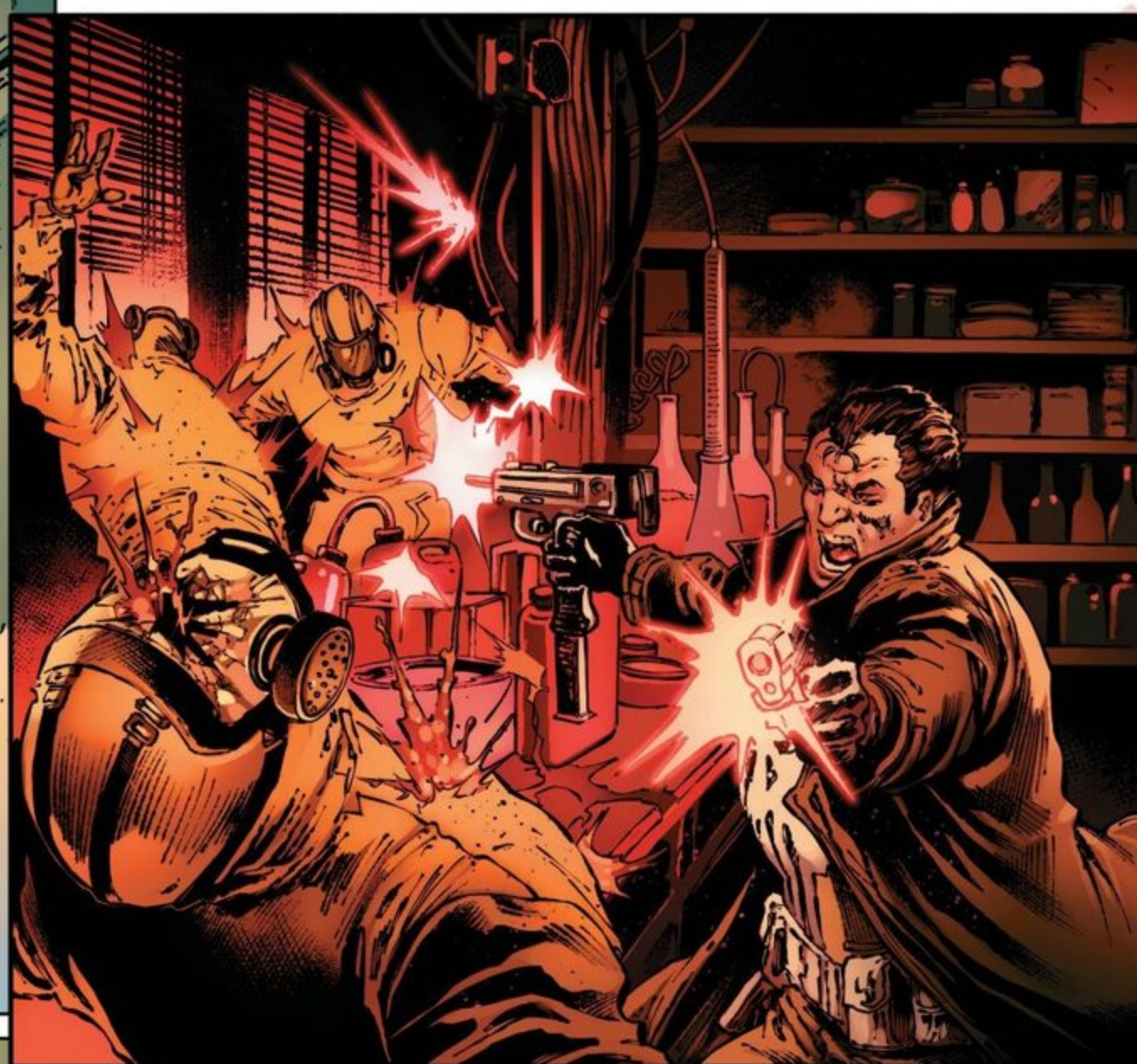
CODE 4
AT 45TH AND
8TH.

EVERYBODY
CLEARED OUT
BEFORE WE
GOT HERE.



IF NEW YORK WAS A BODY,
IF ITS STREETS AND ALLEYS
WERE VEINS, HE IS THE
WHITE BLOOD CELL HUNTING
FOR A CONTAGION.

DISPATCH,
THIS IS CAR 17...
SOMEBODY SLASHED
MY TIRES WHILE I
WAS GETTING A
COFFEE.



I'M
10-23 IN THE
AREA.

SOMEBODY
LIT A FIRE ON THE
HIGH LINE...





YEAH, THIS
ONE'S GRAVEYARD-
DEAD. MAYBE AN
OVERDOSE.

DOMESTIC
DISTURBANCE
NEAR COLUMBUS
PARK--WHO'S IN
THE AREA?

HEY, YOU
GUYS--I JUST
CAUGHT A GUY
TAKING A DOOKIE
IN A MAILBOX.

10-4.



ALARM
TRIGGERED AT
CHAN'S BODEGA
ON LUDLOW IN
CHINATOWN.



THERE IS
NOTHING
DRIVING HIM
TO HELP.

IT ALL FEELS
COMPULSORY.



NOT A WANT
OR A NEED.

JUST AN
INSTINCT. NERVE
ENDINGS FIRING.

VROOOM







HE LEAVES THE
BODY, AND HE TAKES
THE CHOCOLATE.



BUT HE CAN'T
SIMPLY WALK
AWAY.



GRK.



GRK,
GRK.



HIS
BODY...



...IT'S
PUNISHING
HIM.

KRAM

WNEX HEADQUARTERS.

NOBODY
GIVES A DAMN
ABOUT STREET-
LEVEL CRIME.

WE LIVE IN A WORLD
WHERE ALIENS ARE
INVADING, HELL PORTALS
ARE OPENING, GODS
WANT TO EAT
THE PLANET.

BUT--

SOME GUY'S
GOT METAL CLAWS
AND ANOTHER GUY
CAN TURN INTO A
GREEN MONSTER AND
ANOTHER GUY CAN FLY AND
SHOOT LASERS OUT OF
HIS ASS OR WHATEVER.

THIS IS ABOUT ME
PISSING OFF THAT
CITY COUNCILMAN,
ISN'T IT?

I'M BEING
PUNISHED,
AREN'T I?

YOU THINK
YOU'VE GOT A
VIGILANTE STORY?
BIG DEAL.

THIS IS
BULL.

I THINK
THE PUNISHER
IS BACK. THIS IS
REAL NEWS.

THERE'S A
PUPPY PARADE
TOMORROW IN
CENTRAL
PARK.

I WANT
YOU AT
IT.

YOU'RE
PUNISHING ME,
AND YOU DON'T
EVEN HAVE THE
STONES TO
ADMIT IT.

THAT'S A
GOOD GIRL,
MADELINE.

CREEEAK



FRANK?



GUESS YOU MADE YOUR DECISION, HUH?



I SAVED YOU, FRANK.

I SAVED YOU, AND THIS IS HOW YOU THANK ME?



DAMN YOU, MAN.



DAMN...



...YOU?







I'M A KID,
GROWING
UP POOR.

I'M A
LOW-LEVEL
HIT MAN,
GETTING
BOSSSED
AROUND.

I MAKE A
FEW MOVES,
SURE.

BUT EVERY
TIME I WORK
MY WAY UP THE
LADDER, SEEMS
LIKE I GET
SHOVED RIGHT
BACK DOWN.

BUT NOT
THIS TIME,
OKAY?

THIS TIME'S
DIFFERENT.

I MADE
A DEAL
WITH MYSELF
WHEN I WAS
DYING.

JIGSAW,
I SAID, YOU
CAN DO BETTER.
YOU CAN BE BIG-
TIME. YOU CAN
BE THE BOSS
OF BOSSES.



I GOT
IT ALL
WORKED
OUT.

THERE'S
ALL THESE GANGS,
ALL THESE FAMILIES,
ALL THESE BOSSES--
FIGHTING OVER ALL THESE
BOROUGHES, ALL THESE
NEIGHBORHOODS.

IT'S A
MESS. THEY'RE
FOCUSING ON
THE LITTLE
PIECES.

NOT
THE BIG
PICTURE.



I'M A BIG-
PICTURE GUY NOW.
I CAN SEE HOW IT ALL
STITCHES TOGETHER.



THERE'S
JUST ONE
THING I WASN'T
PLANNING
ON...

...AND
THAT'S FRANK
CASTLE.

SO IF THE
@#\$%&@ PUNISHER
IS BACK, LIKE SOME
ARE SAYING...

...I NEED
TO FLUSH HIM
OUT AND FINISH
HIM OFF FOR
GOOD.



THEN
THERE'S ROOM
FOR A NEW
KINGPIN!

TO BE CONTINUED!

Frankly Speaking



EMAIL US AT
MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR
MESSAGES "OKAY
TO PRINT" FOR A
CHANCE TO SEE THEM
ANSWERED IN FUTURE
ISSUES!

EDITOR: DEVIN LEWIS ASST. ED.: DREW BAUMGARTNER EIC: C.B. CEBULSKI

OH SNAP—JIGSAW'S BACK!

Welcome, readers, to another installment of Frankly Speaking! Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you, live and in-print, from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York—and I am so damn excited that you have chosen to use your comics dollars to join us as we embark on this next chapter of Frank Castle's grisly, gutsy adventures!

Picking up right where we left off at the conclusion of **PUNISHER: RED BAND**, scribe Ben Percy has returned to send Frank Castle on an all-new adventure—one more dangerous than ever before. Still recovering from his brainwashing at the hands of the Kingpin, Frank exacted bloody and ruthless vengeance on New York's most formidable crime lord and has left a power vacuum in his place. And as you readers have already seen, the player with his eye on that power vacuum more than anybody else is the one and only **JIGSAW**! (But how is he back?! Say it with me now: "Keep reading, True Believer!")

Without any spoilers, Jigsaw's return has been in the works for over a year, and your pals at Marvel Comics labored long and hard about when the best time to bring him back was. As longtime readers know, Ben is a die-hard Punisher fan, and as soon as it became clear to us that he would be proceeding with the character after **RED BAND**, he came to us with the notion of bringing Jigsaw back—and we were hooked immediately.

But this is just the beginning for Jigsaw, Frank and all the players in their deadly game! Ben's knowledge of the Punisher

and his history is as deep as anyone's can be, and trust me when I tell you that you've got no idea what he—and illustrator José Luis Soares—has in store for old Frank Castle!

While Frank Castle may be waging a one-man war on crime, his comic isn't a one-man show, and we've been fortunate enough that José Luis Soares had just the right window of availability to be able to join us for this series. José's no stranger to Marvel's New York—just last year, he did a senses-shattering tour of duty through Hell's Kitchen, illustrating the final chapter of Saladin Ahmed's **DAREDEVIL** epic!

No sooner did José finish doing the Devil's work than it occurred to Ben and me that he might be just the right fit for this continuation of Frank Castle's story, and we couldn't be more excited that he—and inker Oren Junior—was able to leap from **DAREDEVIL** to **PUNISHER**.

Rounding out our incredible artistic lineup is none other than Frank D'Armata, one of the best colorists in the business! Frank and I have worked on a ton of projects together at this point, and I can tell you with certainty that there is no one with a sharper eye or better instincts—except, perhaps, for Frank Castle himself.

Last, but certainly by no means least, we couldn't let a spotlight on our creative team pass without giving letterer extraordinaire VC's Cory Petit a truly well-deserved shout-out. Cory also lent his talents to **PUNISHER: RED BAND**, and I'm so glad he was able to roll right into this series as well!

Before anyone even got a peek

at the inside of this comics mag, though, they first saw the cover—provided for this new volume of **PUNISHER** by none other than industry legend Dave Marquez, with colors by GURU-eFX. Dave's one of the best cover artists in the business today—nay, ever—and has already contributed some of the most exciting sketches and ideas for the character in recent memory.

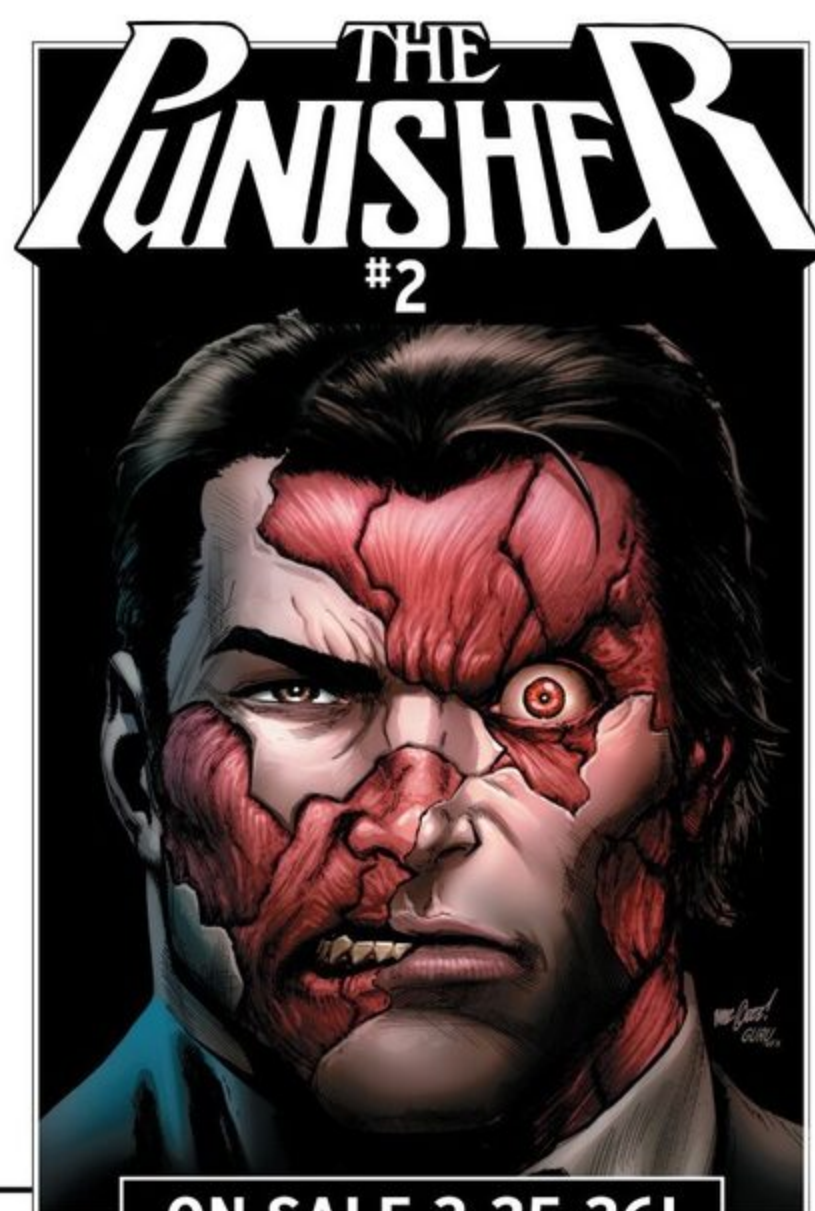
AND THAT'S THE SQUAD!

Bringing you the most explosive and intense Punisher action we can, month in, month out, with some guaranteed surprises along the way. So **WATCH THIS SPACE** and add to your pull list by telling your comic shop that you want the best...because the best is **PUNISHER**!

And speaking of covers—feast your eyes on the cover for **PUNISHER #2** from Dave and GURU-eFX!

Stay sharp,
Devin
1.15.26

NEXT:



ON SALE 3.25.26!